

UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

Spring 2011 Newsletter ♦ Volume 3.3

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings from the University Honors Program! School is out, and the 2011 class of Honors students has left the campus for a little rest and sun (we hope), and then new jobs, graduate, medical, law, and pharmacy school, and many other opportunities. This class of seniors was an amazing cohort and will be sorely missed – they were our campus leaders, classmates, and friends. Honors was very well-represented among the Hines and Rankin award recipients. To all those that have graduated, we wish you well, and look forward to your successes as ISU alumni. Meanwhile, our incoming class of scholarship students has been determined and a very capable (and the largest group yet) of Peer Advisors awaits their arrival. The next academic year for Honors at ISU is very bright.

Congratulations to Dr. Arthur Feinsod, selected by the students as the Honors Faculty of the Year. Arthur's passion for the humanities is a constant thread in university discussions about the Honors curriculum, and in the classrooms of the General Honors 201 *Introduction to the Great Works* courses. His class was one of many exciting courses this year that the Honors Program was proud to offer.

In this newsletter, you will read of the achievements and activities of our students – scholarships, visiting speakers and students, campus and community service, and travel – in their own voices. I was particularly excited by the intensive week of activity that accompanied the visit of Navajo students and their teachers from Piñon, Arizona, inspired by the work of ISU Honors alum, Kristin Monts (their English teacher). It was also a great pleasure to travel with the President and Cheri Bradley, colleagues Sandra Brake and Tracy Ford, and our President's Scholars to several Utah national parks and to conduct community service in the Community Youth Garden in Moab, Utah.

As always, I want to offer a huge thanks to the many offices on this campus with which the Honors Program works every day. When our students excel, it is truly because of the full effort of the University community. Your efforts and generosity are greatly appreciated.

Finally, I am personally indebted to the Honors program staff, each of whom is essential to the programs and services we provide –Laura, the driving force behind our student programming and communication, and Wendy, who keeps the proverbial wheels on. A special thanks to the contribution of graduating seniors Beth Neeley and Rachel Posey. We in Honors look forward to working with each of you in the coming year.

Greg Bierly
Director, University Honors Program



Pictured Above: middle school students from Piñon, AZ visited ISU in April.

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2011 AWARD RECIPIENTS

The University Honors Program annually awards several scholarships to support the academic goals of current Honors students. The 2011-2012 recipients were announced at the University Honors Program Awards Banquet on Sunday, April 17. Congratulations to **Leslie Brown**, the 2011 recipient of the Anne Bauer Jackson, M.D. Honors Book Scholarship; **Jocelyn Gregg**, the 2011 recipient of the Rebecca A. Johnson Honors Program Award for Honors Nursing students; and **Clarissa Jones** and **Richard Rosales**, the 2011 recipients of the Richard J. Brett Memorial Scholarship for Study Abroad.

Honors also annually recognizes a student who has a positive impact on the Honors community through his/her leadership in the program. This award especially considers those who do not have a defined leadership position, but choose to go above and beyond as leaders in the program anyway. This year, freshman **Randa Wells** was presented the Honors Leadership Award for her continuous dedication to the Honors Freshmen Council and her enthusiasm for extra-curricular programming.

In addition to the Honors Program awards, a number of Honors students were recognized by the university for their outstanding achievements. Senior **Justin Todd** was awarded the 2011 President's Medal for Civic and Community Engagement; juniors **Shannon Hayes** and **Kelsie Noble** were awarded the 2011 Richard G. Landini Outstanding Junior award; seniors **Heather Bauer**, **Elizabeth Neeley**, and **Anna Smith** were awarded the 2011 Alan C. Rankin Memorial Distinguished Senior award; and seniors **Heather Bauer**, **Rebecca Campbell**, **Lana Schrock**, and **Breanna Wyman** were awarded the Hines Memorial Medal for completing their degrees with a 4.0 grade point average. Additionally, graduating senior **Anna Smith** was selected as the May 2011 Student Commencement Speaker.



2011 HONORS FACULTY OF THE YEAR



Congratulations to Dr. Arthur Feinsod for winning the 2011 Honors Faculty of the Year Award! The University Honors Program annually collects nominations from current Honors students to recognize excellent Honors Faculty who have taught a General Honors or Departmental Honors course during the current academic year. Comments about Dr. Feinsod, who teaches GH201: Introduction to the Great Works, include:

“Professor Feinsod has a true passion for the material that truly helped me learn, expand my thoughts and beliefs, and understand the beliefs of others on a much higher level.”

“He makes the class challenging and interesting and you can tell that he is passionate about the subject. He is willing to work with you to help you excel. Overall he is a very intelligent and genuinely nice professor.”

CONGRATULATIONS, MAY 2011 HONORS GRADUATES!

The University Honors Program is excited to congratulate the May 2011 Honors Graduating Seniors, who make up the largest class of Honors graduates in recent history!

- Ahnya Alstott
- Heather Bauer
- Andrew Beaven
- Joshua Brown
- Rebecca Campbell
- Kelly Cheney
- Casey Clark
- Anna Coffey
- Mary Crawford
- Jordan Dant
- Amanda Didier
- Kaitlyn Eddelman
- Sarah Ehrat
- Kayla ElDib
- Kathryn Erickson
- Shannen Falconer
- Laura Finch
- Greta Fishback
- Logan Fulford
- Angela Hatfield
- Christopher Hauger
- Colleen Johnson
- Katrina Jones
- Janie Kelly
- Aliya Kahn
- Darin Lang
- Gianni Lipkins
- Melony Loeb
- Kelli Lueken
- Ashley Lutz
- Amanda Mayer
- Stephanie McCarty
- Erik McCreary
- Kelley McKay
- Brittany Meeker
- Abigail Miller
- Shelley Mitchell
- Elizabeth Neeley
- Danielle Overholser-Doty
- Rachel Posey
- Diana Ricketts
- Emily Schepers
- Abigail Schmitz
- Christian Schrock
- Lana Schrock
- Kendall Seward
- Anna Smith
- Nicole Smith
- Sarah Smith
- Mona Sulieman
- Justin Todd
- Tiffani Vaal
- Maggie Williams
- Jessica Wiles
- Breanna Wyman

PRESIDENT'S SCHOLARS' TRIP TO UTAH



The President's Scholars' trip to Utah was a wonderful experience! The landscape of the region is truly amazing and unlike anything I had ever seen before. We began our trip in Salt Lake City where we visited Temple Square. This was a unique experience for most of us and we learned quite a bit about Mormon history and culture.

We then traveled to southern Utah where we hiked through many scenic and well-known areas like Arches National Park, Bryce Canyon, and Zion

Canyon. Each park, although within the same basic region, is drastically different and has its own unique features that make it a beautiful place. For me, the best park we hiked through was Arches simply because it is so different from what I am used to. The magnitude of both the size and age of the rock formations is difficult to comprehend and creates a dramatic landscape. We had a fantastic time climbing around and enjoying the widespread view of red rocks and sand, the La Sal Mountains visible in the background.

Some of the most memorable experiences from the trip include a boat ride on the Colorado River, watching the sunrise over Bryce Canyon, hiking along a river and several serene pools in Zion Canyon, having pizza in Moab late one night after a great hike, and loading into one of the three vehicles we rented, laughing constantly.



In addition to the breathtaking scenery, I feel that what really made the trip into such a memorable adventure was the group of people with which we travelled. We had such a wonderful combination of intelligent, energetic, witty, and fun individuals! We were fortunate to have the geological expertise of the passionate and informative Dr. Sandra Brake with us. I think we all had a better understanding and appreciation of the landscape because of her. We also have Dr. Bierly to thank for being the mastermind behind the planning and implementation of the trip. He created quite an amazing journey for us. Also deserving a thank you are President and Mrs. Bradley for being so down to earth and taking the time out of their busy lives to share such an incredible excursion with their students.



PRESIDENT'S SCHOLARS' TRIP TO UTAH, CONT.



And finally, Tracy Ford, our videographer, can be credited with not only capturing the whole adventure on film, but doing so with a smile and a cheerful attitude despite carrying an additional thirty, or more, pounds of camera equipment along the steep inclines of canyon trails.

Several times throughout the trip, I thought of what an amazing opportunity my fellow scholars and I had been given. Very few students can say that they have travelled across the country with faculty and the president and first lady of their university. I feel very fortunate to have experienced such an incredible trip and I have many great memories that I will keep with me forever.

-Sarah Ehrat, President's Scholar

SPRING 2011 SPEAKERS

RICHARD ROEPER, FILM CRITIC

On March 28th, 2011, I had the pleasure of dining with and meeting the esteemed film critic, Richard Roeper. The dinner was a great success; while it was a very small dining party, Mr. Roeper mingled with everyone, and my table was the first stop. It was interesting to hear how he had always wanted to be a journalist, and got his start by slowly working up the chain in a specific newspaper, then when the moment arrived he turned in some writing samples and boom! He got a column. The story of his career was entertaining, interesting and of course funny at times to match his very outgoing personality. The presentation by Mr. Roeper was also just as exciting as the dinner conversation. He presented several myths about films, red carpet reviews, and shared many stories from his experiences being on the Roeper & Ebert show, to his writing for the Chicago Sun Times. Also integrated into the lecture were various film clips to go along with several of the lecture notes to allow the audience to experience the 'myth busting' or truth about certain stories. At the end of the presentation, various members of the audience were given the chance to ask questions, and then the event ended for the evening.

-Shelley Mitchell, Music Education

ALISSA NUTTING, AUTHOR

On March 31, Honors students and faculty packed Rhoads Hall lounge to listen to author Alissa Nutting read from her book of short stories, "Unclean Jobs of Women and Girls," and discuss her creative work. After reading a selection of stories that had the entire audience rolling with laughter – "Cat Owner," "Knife-Thrower" and "Corpse Smoker" – Nutting opened the floor for students to ask questions about her book and offered tips on writing. She explained that she enjoys writing about the human element and tries to keep the focus on the feelings and emotions of the characters instead of concentrating on the occasionally bizarre situations that occur throughout her stories.

-Leslie Brown, Biology

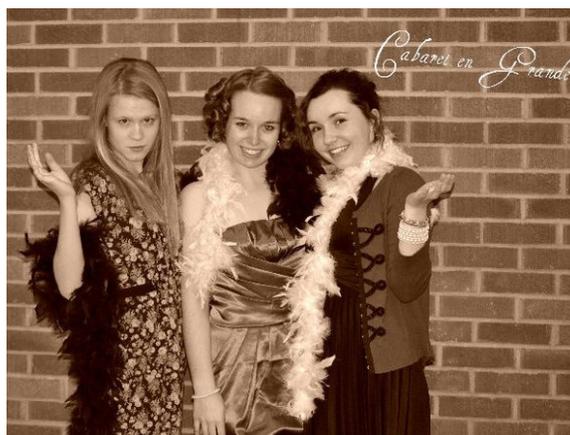
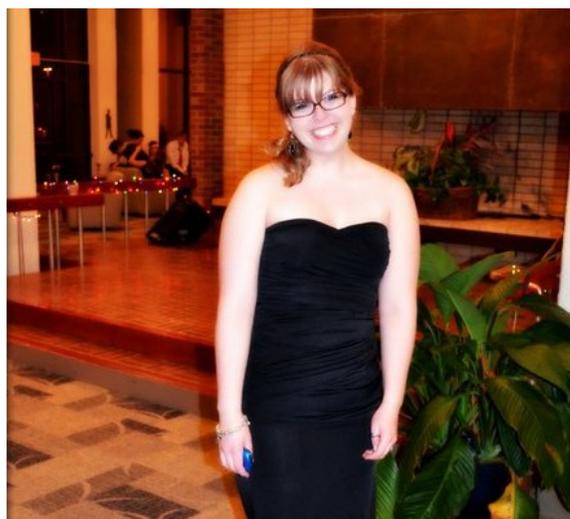
COUNCIL OF HONORS STUDENTS

The 2010-2011 school year has been an exciting adventure for the Honors Council! The start of the fall semester marked the beginning of a completely revolutionized Council structure. We had much to learn about our new responsibilities, and about what it meant to be a leader in the Honors Program.

Our Chairwoman of the Council, Megan Cornett, led us through the year -- giving us opportunities to plan programs, make important decisions for the Honors program, and grow in our positions of leadership. The Freshman Council also served as an important resource, lending a hand in every stage of program planning process! Our list of events for the year included the fall picnic, Halloween party, holiday party, Cabaret en Grande, spring study week picnic, and visitors from the university speaker series, among other things!

This year was a complete success for the Honors Council, all the way from raising money for the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation and Relay for Life to selling nerd-style t-shirts to the entire Honors student body! The coming school year already looks promising, and the new Honors Council is anxious to get started! Exciting events are in the planning stages for the 2011-2012 school year, built upon the excellent foundation made by the Honors Council this year!

-Katie Ellingsworth, 2011-2012 Chair-Elect



PRESIDENT'S SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION

The President's Scholars Association (PSA) had a great 2010-2011 school year. Not only did PSA participate in events and activities from previous years but new traditions were started as well. At the beginning of the year, PSA gathered together to attend our annual camping retreat. During this retreat, we were able to get to know one another, practice cooperating as a team, and practice our leadership abilities. While the school year was underway, PSA volunteered at the Light House Mission to serve food, and participated in Race for the Cure. In the beginning of December, we decorated the fountain area to bring excitement and spirit to the ISU students, which was received with many praises. PSA also volunteered for Habitat for Humanity for the first time. It was a wonderful experience being able to help build someone's future house while working as a team. PSA had a very successful school year filled with many fun and worthwhile experiences. Our group is looking forward to participating in more events next year.

-Meredith Lewis, 2011-2012 President-Elect

SUMMER 2011 GENERAL HONORS (GH) CLASSES

SUMMER I: GH301K – CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY (MTWR 9:45-11:45)

Instructor: Prof. Marilyn Bisch

This course provides students a foundational comprehension of the variety, complexity, and richness of Classical Greek and Roman mythology. Assignments and activities simultaneously focus upon introducing these myths within their original cultural and historical contexts and on consideration of their continued influence on Western thought. This influence extends beyond the obvious realms of literature and other arts to a broad range of academic disciplines from astronomy to zoology. In short, knowledge of Classical mythology is fundamental for understanding much of Western thought and culture and our course is an excellent addition to the general education of students in any major across the university.

SUMMER II: GH301L – THE CELTIC WORLD (MTWR 9:45-11:45)

Instructor: Dr. Nan McEntire

This course introduces undergraduate Honors students to the cultural impact of the Celtic world, past and present, with an emphasis on folk narrative, folk belief, customary lore, folk art, and folk music. Readings and class lectures will cover mythology, folklore, and folk literature from Scotland, Ireland, Brittany, and Wales, with special attention on legends and folktales based in the North Sea regions, narratives about magic seals, threshold customs that are practiced to this day in Scotland and Ireland, and examples of traditional ballads and instrumental tunes with Celtic roots.



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETIES

During the 2011 school year, Golden Key, NSCS, and ALD collaborated to host a meet and greet so that members could interact and learn more about each other and about all three of the organizations. During this year, officers from all three of these organizations provided information and supported Sexual Assault Awareness. During the 2011-2012 school year, all three of these organizations plan on collaborating to host several events. During the fall of 2012, the organizations will be collaborating to host a walk-a-thon to support children suffering from Leukemia.

ALPHA LAMBDA DELTA

Alpha Lambda Delta (ALD) is an organization that was founded on recognizing excellence in freshmen. Our current officers are as follows: President Kristine Hansen, Vice President Britany Dean, Secretary Laura Brassie, and Treasurer Kacey Harlow. ALD has recently inducted 154 new members. In order to become members, students must have a grade point average of 3.5 or higher and rank in the top 20% of their class during their first year or term of their college education. If you are interested in becoming a member please go to www.nationalald.org for more information.



NATIONAL SOCIETY OF COLLEGIATE SCHOLARS

The National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS) is an organization that recognizes high achieving students. NSCS endorses service, leadership, and integrity. NSCS offers many scholarships opportunity to students. This year, approximately 150 students were inducted into the NSCS. We would like to congratulate our new inductees and to extend an offer to join our organization to any nonmember. Britany Dean is the chapter President of NSCS at Indiana State University and is playing an integral part in restructuring this organization on the ISU campus. Britany is currently looking for members to become a part of the committees within NSCS. In order become a member of NSCS, you must be a freshman or sophomore. Another requirement to join NSCS is that you must rank in the top 20% of your class. If you are interested in becoming a member please go to www.nscs.org for more information.

GOLDEN KEY INTERNATIONAL HONOUR SOCIETY

Golden Key is a honor society that was founded on three pillars: academics, leadership, and service. Golden Key is an organization that offers students the ability to collaborate and provide philanthropy for their local community. The Golden Key International Honour Society is currently looking for leaders who are willing to take officer positions for the 2011-2012 school year. On April 7, 2010, approximately 100 new members were inducted into the Golden Key family. In order to become a member, a student must have a 3.7 grade point average, must be an upper classman (at least a sophomore), and must be studying for a bachelor or master's degree at an accredited college. If you are interested in becoming a member, please go to www.goldenkey.org for more information.

If you would like more information or are interested in taking on a leadership role in Alpha Lambda Delta, Golden Key International Honour Society, or the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, please contact Candace Williams at cwilliams24@indstate.edu or 812-237-3225.

-Candace Williams, Honors Graduate Assistant

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

The President's Scholars Association is an organization which consists of some of the university's finest scholars. One of our goals is to give back to our campus and our community through various service projects. On March 19, 2011, a group of our members helped with constructing a house for Habitat for Humanity. Through teamwork, we were able to make considerable progress on roofing the house and wiring the interior. Perhaps the greatest part of the experience was meeting the woman for whom the house was being built. She was incredibly appreciative of our efforts and knowing we were truly making a difference in her life meant a lot to many of us. *-Robert Compton, Chemistry*

CABARET EN GRANDE

Thank you to everyone who attended and donated to the recent Cabaret en Grande. It is inspiring to know that the Indiana State University Honors students are so willing to support a cause such as Multiple Myeloma research. Thanks to the effort put forth by so many people, Cabaret en Grande raised over \$500 that will go to the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation to help find a cure for this horrendous blood cancer. The event was a success beyond what was expected, and many people's lives will be better for it. Since my grandmother passed away from this cancer, I would like to extend a special thank you to all the students and faculty that helped the event become such a success. Your support excites me, and I hope that Cabaret en Grande is something that the Honors Program looks forward to each and every year. Thank you so much! *-Payton Kuhnle, Chemistry/Pre-Medicine*

RELAY FOR LIFE

Jail warden. Nacho stand. Prizes. Games. Luminarias. All these titles and names were only a part of my Relay for Life experience. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the Relay, partly because I had such an excellent team to support me. Being co-captain of our Honors team, I was privileged to help plan events and fundraisers in support of the American Cancer Society. As fundraisers for the event, we set out donation cans throughout Terre Haute and hosted a nacho stand and "jail" at the Relay event on April 9th- 10th. Because the theme of the Relay was "Cancer Is No Game," the track was set up to resemble a Monopoly board game making our Honors "jail" quite appropriate! We had a fantastic time arresting friends for a payment of one dollar. Bail was five dollars, or fifteen minutes in the slammer. Some poor souls spent as much as 1½ hours in jail, due to friends who loved to buy our colorful jail tickets. But no worries- we supplied the prisoners with board games and more prisoners to converse with. Before the event, upon request, my family and friends graciously donated to the cause. Facebook is an excellent ally for tasks like these, as well as email. I surpassed my goal of \$200 with their assistance. Through the fun and excitement, I was able to meet new people, make new friends, and help support a cause that is very personal to me because my dad has Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia. Who knew that one could experience such fun and companionship as a result of such a horrid, yet common disease? I urge others to join in on the fight against cancer this coming year; it would be tremendous to the cure of cancer if we could surpass the amount of donations we raised this year! Cancer-affected individuals would be very appreciative, and you could help save the lives of your loved ones. As you consider your future participation, remember the American Cancer Society motto: Celebrate. Remember. FIGHT BACK!

-Nancy DeGott, Mathematics Education

Note: The Honors team raised a total of \$1113.04 for Relay for Life!

POVERTY AND EDUCATION SEMINAR – GARY, IN

On April 15th, the Poverty and Education seminar students went to the Charter School of the Dunes in Gary, IN. ISU adopted the fourth grade class of this charter school and we went to visit the students. While we were there, we helped the students with arts and crafts by making t-shirts and paper mache globes. Then we split into small groups and read books to each other. When the fourth graders would read to us, they would argue over how many pages each of them would read. While we were there, the students were celebrating Earth Day. One way that we celebrated Earth Day with them was to create an Earth Day rap. We were again split into groups and each group competed against the others to see who had the best song. This was so much fun for the children and the ISU students.

We are learning about how social, educational, and diversity issues are affecting how children learn. It was very rewarding to observe these fourth graders receive the gifts and attention from the ISU students. Many of these students do regularly not get this attention because their parents do not have much time to spend with them because they have to work. I talked with one student whose mother works at night, so this student has to spend many nights alone. This is difficult for many of us to imagine because we always had at least one parent home at night. This was truly a rewarding experience not just for the children, but for us because the children inspired us to go out into our community and help others by just simply being a role model.

-Justin Todd, Legal Studies/Political Science



POVERTY AND EDUCATION SEMINAR – PIÑON STUDENTS



In a cultural and educational experience spanning the week of April 24, Indiana State University and the Poverty and Education Seminar participants hosted a dynamic group of eighth and ninth grade students, members of the Navajo Nation in Piñon, Arizona. The visit, organized through collaboration with the students' teacher and ISU alumna Kristin Monts, married the first-hand encounter of a university setting for the students with a cultural exchange for ISU. A laboratory project, an overview of ISU's media technology, elementary education math, and small group discussions over "The Giver" characterized the hands-on engagement between the students and ISU – and that was just the first day. The rest of the week included places of interest in Terre Haute – a day at North and South high schools, tours of the Clabber Girl, the C.A.N.D.L.E.S. Holocaust Museum, the Children's Museum, and even a ghost walk with Dr. Nan McEntire, associate professor of English at ISU.

The week's activities were an introduction to ISU and our city, centered on the desire from the visiting students to travel to a place far from their home and, one day, attend college. From the scope of ISU's facilities and resources, to Indiana's geographical characteristics ("So much green!"), to the variety in everything from our living situations and food selection, many differences were noted between our environment and that to which the students are accustomed on their reservation. In a living portrait of these differences, following a slideshow of Piñon, Arizona images, the students presented poetry, ceremonial craft traditions and dance, and personal stories to a rapt audience in Cunningham Memorial Library the day before their departure. Despite these deep contrasts in experience and background, the interactions among the participants from Indiana State and the Piñon Middle School and High School students revealed outstanding commonalities relevant to the Seminar's focus: educational passion, and lifelong aspirations.

-Morgan Mayle, Legal Studies/Political Science



UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

Rhoads Hall Mezzanine
Monday-Friday
8:00am-4:30pm

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HONORS GRADUATING SENIORS



IMAGE CREDITS

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